M

Fifth Development Y.

(1949) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 326.

Dated 23-3-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rural Reconstruction- Intensive work in selected Firkas and centres- Programme of work for 1949-50- Papers- Recorded.

Government Memorandum No. 3126 Firka Department I/49-1
dated 28- 2- 1949.

Sub:- Rural Reconstruction- Intensive work in selected Firkas and centres- Programme for 1949-50.

Government have had under consideration a proposal to draw up a programme of work for the Firka Development Officers to follow during the year 1949-50. The matter was discussed at the conference of the Firka Development Officers held at Shantipuram in the last week of December and again at a special meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Firka Development Board held at Madras on 11/1/49. A programme indicating in broad outline, the items of work to which the Firka Development Officers should pay attention is given in the Appendix. The programme is intended to serve only as a guide to help the Firka Development Officers to draw up a plan to regulate their activities during the coming year to suit local conditions in their respective spheres.

Programme of Work.

1. Sanitation:- Each Firka Development Officer and Grama Sevak should concentrate upon keeping the village in which he lives clean and sanitary. This includes the provision of manure pits and latrines and the utilisation of sullage water referred to under item II Agriculture below.

II. Agriculture:

(a) Survey: A survey of the food requirements of the area in charge of the Firka Development Officer and of the food produced in the area should first be made, taking into account the needs of the area in cereals, pulses, condiments, vegetables and fruits and their local production. Ryots should be persuaded to regulate their cultivation in such a way as to make the area as far as possible self-sufficient in these different items of food products.

(b) Manure:- Proper preservation of farm manure should be propagated and its wastage stopped. Construction of cattle sheds in such a way as to conserve the dung and urine of the cattle should be encouraged.

Preservation of human refuse in drench or Wardha type latrines, preservation of bones of dead animals for conversion into powder and use in soils deficient in calcium, and growing of green manure crops with or without the assistance given by the Agricultural Department should also be encouraged. Growing of black babul and trees on high level land or bunds and palmyrah on outer bunds of fields should be advocated . Babul trees provide fuel and timber for agricultural implements and pods for cattle feed. Glyrocedia trees and pungam plants could also be grown in wet lands to serve as manure. Devices to make the best use of house-hold sullage water should be indicated to villagers. The removal of alluvial silt from tanks or other water reservoirs in proper season should be organised.

(c) Soil erosion:- The special features of each area should be intelligently studied and terracing or contour bunding suggested in suitable cases. The officers of the Agricultural Department should be consulted on all technical aspects of the question.

(d) Irrigation:- Collective effort on the part of the villagers to remove silt from tanks and supply

channels should be organised. The silt cleared should not be wasted but should be put to the best use possible as manure. Wherever electricity is available its use to lift water should be investigated and all help to secure pumping sets or other assistance should be given. Water diviners should also be pressed into service before undertaking bore wells for water.

(e) Credit -- Assistance should be given to poorer ryots to secure credit for the purchase of implements seeds etc. either through the agency of the local- Co-operative Credit Society or under the Takkavi Rules.

(f) Cattle -- Ryots should be encouraged to have cattle which serve more than one purpose, for example a cow which gives milk as well as serves as a draught animal and also a breeding animal. Each ryot should be encouraged to have a cow and if a poor ryot cannot buy one outright, he might start with a calf. Buffaloes which give only milk and are unfit for service as draught animals or vice versa would only have secondary importantce.

Each village or group of villages should have at least one stud-bull. Full advantage should be taken of the Government subsidy schemes to secure these bulls. If good bulls are not available in Government farms, purchases may be made at reputed cattle markets. If it is not possible to get a full-grown stud-bull, a start may be made with a heifer which would be cheaper and arrangements should be made to feed it properly. Early castration of all other heifers in the village should be insisted upon so asto preserve the purity of the stock in the village.

The keeping of goats to meet the needs of milk may also be encouraged; but goats should not be allowed to browse at freedom and should be fed only in stalls.

III. Village Industries:- Food processing is of primary importance in villages. Adequate facilities should be provided in each village to the extent necessary to meet the needs of the residents. The hand-pounding of rice and the use of chakkies or denkies, oil pressing and subsidiary food producing industries such as bee-keeping, gur-making and poultry farming and should also be organised progressively.

The Industries which produce agricultural implements should also be organised. Carpentry and blacksmithy, rope- basket- or mat-making and leather tanning come under this category. Pottery and paper making which are also of importance in village economy should also receive attention.

IV. Khadi:- Attention should be paid to the development of Khadi in the area in accordance with the targets fixed and instructions given under the Intensive or Extensive Khadi Scheme as the case may be. Each Grama Sevak should introduce at least 200 active charkas in his group during the year, each selected area thus having 1,000 charkas in the year. Villages in which the Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevaks live should be taken up first.

V. Housing:- At least one model housing scheme for harijans

should

should be taken up and completed in the village where the need is the greatest in the selected area. The housing scheme should be so framed as to merge Harijan areas into other areas of the village and also help non-harijans of about the same economic status.

VI. , Plans already drawn up for the provision of water supply in the villages of the area should be completed by the end of September 1949 without fail.

VII. The development of communications in the area should also be completed during the year. No contractor should be employed for the execution of works and the villagers benefited should be encouraged to execute the works themselves.

VIII. Firka Development Officers should see that at least by the end of June 1949, each village in the selected area has a Panchayat (duly constituted under the Madras Local Boards Act), a Co-operative Society duly registered and a Grama Seva Sangham formed in accordance with the instructions separately issued. Thesethree bodies should be so organised as to be able to take charge of the entire administrative work in the village.'Cooperation' should be the key note of all organizational work in the villages.

IX. Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevaks should devote attention to the other items of development work in the villages according to the needs with reference to the special circumstances of each place. These items may include (1) Adult education (2) Women Welfare work and (3) Medical Aid.

To

Sd. Secretary to Government
Firka Development Department

All Firka Development Officers.

All Collectors except the Collectors of Madras.

The Regional Firka Development Officers (N) and (S)

Copy to and
The P.A. Hon'ble Premier/Hon'ble Minister (Firka Development)
The Board of Revenue. (L.R.)
The Registrar of Cooperative Societies.
The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
The Director of Agriculture
The Chief Operating Engineers (North) & (South)
The Chief Engineer (I)
The Director of Agriculture & Industries
The Director of Industries & Commerce.
The Firka Development II, III, IV, VI and VII Sections.

/True copy/

Sd. 18.8.1953

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

For orders whether the papers may now be recorded as G.O.

Firka Development Department.

G.O. Ms. No. 326 dated 23. 3. 1949.

Abstract.

Rural Reconstruction- Intensive work in selected Firkas and centres- Programme of work for 1949-50- Papers-recorded.

Sd. *******
22.3.1949.

/True copy/

Office Assistant.

SD/18.8.1953

Madras Record Office.

5/2/48.